

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 FEA-02

INT-08 SCI-06 CU-05 DRC-01 /145 W

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R 040400Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7773

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, EGEN, SA US

SUBJECT: PRINCE FAHD PRESS CONFERENCE ON SAUDI DEVELOPMENT

1. PRINCE FAHD BIN ABDUL AZIZ GAVE A RARE (IF NOT UNIQUE) AND UNEXPECTED PRESS CONFERENCE ON JULY 2 IN TA'IF FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT WITH STEVE BECHTEL, JR., PRESIDENT OF BECHTEL COMPANY, FOR THE DESIGN OF THE NEW RIYADH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. REPORTERS PRESENT FOR THE SIGNING QUESTIONED THE SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON MOST ASPECTS OF SAUDI DEVELOPMENT FOR ALMOST HALF AN HOUR. PRINCE FAHD WAS ALSO QUESTIONED ABOUT THE NEW COOPERATION BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES. IN REPLY TO THIS QUESTION HE SAID THAT THE COMMITTEES TO BE SET UP WOULD CARRY OUT THE GOALS OF THE STATEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED BY KING FAISAL AND PRESIDENT NIXON, AND WHICH WAS SIGNED IN WASHINGTON AT THE END OF HIS VISIT THERE. HE SAID THAT THE MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUPS WOULD BE USEFUL AND THAT EVERYONE WOULD IN THE NEAR FUTURE OBSERVE ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND SOCIAL FIELDS.

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2. WHILE THE SIX-MAN AMERICAN BECHTEL TEAM LOOKED

ON, PRINCE FAHD REPLIED TO QUESTIONS ON EDUCATION, THE BUDGET, AND THE NEW RIYADH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT. THE AIRPORT WILL EQUAL IN COST (\$300 MILLION) THE JIDDA AIRPORT. HE ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE NEW REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT FUND, ANNOUNCED THE DAY BEFORE (SEPTTEL). FAHD PLEDGED THAT EVERY CITIZEN WOULD FEEL THAT HOUSING, ELECTRICITY AND HOSPITALS ARE WITHIN HIS REACH AND THAT EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE SUITABLE WORK. HE ALSO ANSWERED SEVERAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE FREEDOM AND STRENGTH OF THE PRESS IN SAUDI ARABIA, PRAISING THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

3. COMMENT: MOST SAUDI SOURCES AGREE THAT THE UNEXPECTED PRESS CONFERENCE AND THE FACT THAT SAUDI TELEVISION TWICE BROADCAST THE INTERVIEW ARE INDICATIONS THAT FAHD IS STRENGTHENING HIS POSITION. FAHD HAS CLEARLY ASSOCIATED THE US WITH SAUDI ASPIRATIONS FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTLY BENEFITING THE PEOPLE. WE HOPE WE BOTH CAN DELIVER.

BIRD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, SOCIAL CHANGE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, EAID, EGEN, SA, (FAHD, PRINCE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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